

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response to address the non-final Office Action mailed on June 11, 2010. Claims 19-68 are pending. Claims 23-28, 40-45 and 56-61 are allowed. Claims 19-22, 29-39, 46-55 and 62-68 are rejected.

More specifically, Claims 19-22, 29-39, 46-55 and 62-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Niemann EP 1 065 335 A1 (Niemann). Applicants have amended independent Claims 19, 36 and 53 to more clearly identify novel features of the invention, particularly relative to Niemann.

Niemann discloses an electromechanical lock. Niemann further describes a driver (27) that moves along the long axis of the lock (the direction of arrow 31). This is illustrated by comparing Figs. 4a and 5a. The driver (27) of Niemann also rotates about the long axis of the lock. This is seen by comparing Figs. 4b and 5b. Applicants have amended independent Claims 19, 36 and 53 to recite that the driver moves radially inwardly and outwardly relative to the long axis of the lock as well as substantially perpendicular to the long axis of the lock. Niemann does not disclose this feature of independent Claims 19, 36 and 53 as the driver (27) of Niemann does not move radially inwardly and outwardly relative to the long axis of the lock. Instead, the driver (27) rotates. Therefore, Niemann does not anticipate these claims. For the same reason, Niemann does not anticipate dependent Claims 20-22, 29-35, 37-39, 46-52, 54-55 and 62-68.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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